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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 29 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

I have the honour to address you, in your capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in relation to the attached note verbale dated 29 June 2010 sent to the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-43634 (E) 020710

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note verbale dated 24 May 2010 concerning the denial of a United States entry visa to Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh Basti, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs. It is noted that the note verbale replicates the same explanations given by the representative of the United States before the Committee on Relations with the Host Country at its 246th meeting, on 20 May 2010.

While appreciating the efforts of the host country in discharging its international obligations, particularly those under the Headquarters Agreement, concerning prompt issuance of visas for representatives of Member States to attend United Nations meetings, the Islamic Republic of Iran deems the explanations given by the United States Mission as to the denial of a visa for Akhondzadeh Basti unacceptable. That the host country issued United States entry visas for other members of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 2010 NPT Review Conference does not give an excuse to deny a visa to the Deputy Foreign Minister. Nor does it relieve the Government of the United States of its responsibility to fully abide by its international obligations. Moreover, Mr. Akhondzadeh had first applied for the United States entry visa on 30 November 2009. He applied for a third time on 11 March 2010, well in advance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The host country authorities had ample time, therefore, for processing his visa applications.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to underline, once again, the responsibility of the Government of the United States in carrying out its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement, and reiterates its calls to the host country authorities to abide by their international obligations with regard to prompt issuance of visas for representatives of Member States to attend United Nations meetings.

New York, 29 June 2010

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 6 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cyprus in its capacity as Chair of the United Nations Committee on Relations with the Host Country and has the honour to enclose copies of the following notes verbales:

(a) Note dated 10 June 2010, notifying the United States Mission of an incident that occurred at New York International Airport (JFK), where the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua was wrongfully detained (see annex I).

(b) Note dated 26 June 2010, notifying the United States Mission of a second incident relating to the arrival of the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua at Miami International Airport, where she was again unjustly detained (see annex II).

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua respectfully requests the Permanent Mission of Cyprus, in its capacity as Chair of the United Nations Committee on Relations with the Host Country, to distribute the two enclosed communications.

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Annex I to the note verbale dated 6 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and informs it of the unacceptable and regrettable incident that occurred when H.E. Ms. María Rubiales de Chamorro, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, entered the United States of America on Monday, 7 June 2010 at JFK airport in New York City.

The Permanent Representative, after disembarking from Taca flight 566 at 2.05 a.m., joined the line reserved for diplomats and handed the required papers to the official on duty who, after checking them, asked her to step out of the line and took her to an internal interrogation area, even though she had previously identified herself as the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua protests vigorously about the treatment given to the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, emphasizing that it is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Headquarters Agreement and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, violating in particular article 29 thereof, which clearly lays down that "the person of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable. He shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention". The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua accordingly demands that the United States of America provide an immediate explanation regarding the aforementioned incident and that it take measures to ensure that there is no repetition.

Annex II to the note verbale dated 6 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and informs it of the unacceptable and regrettable incident that again occurred when H.E. Ms. María Rubiales de Chamorro, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, entered the United States of America on Saturday, 26 June 2010 at Miami International Airport (MIA) in the City of Miami.

The Permanent Representative, after disembarking from LAN flight XL516 at 5.05 p.m., joined the line reserved for diplomats and handed the required papers to the official on duty who, after checking them, asked her to step out of the line and took her to an internal interrogation area, where undocumented persons and suspects are interrogated, even though she had previously identified herself as the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua protests vigorously about the treatment given to the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, emphasizing that it is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Headquarters Agreement and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, violating in particular article 29 thereof, which clearly lays down that "the person of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable. He shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention". The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua accordingly demands that the United States of America provide an immediate explanation regarding the aforementioned incident and that it take measures to ensure once and for all that there is no repetition, this being the second time that the incident has occurred within a period of 10 days.